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Title:
Speech at the opening of Animal Village, Wingfield

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR. DON DUNSTAN, AT
THE OPENING OF ANIMAL VILLAGE, WINGFIELD.

MR. PENERY, MY MINISTERIAL COLLEAGUE, DON
BANFIELD, MR. LORD MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I'M NOT SURE IN WHICH CAPACITY I CAN BEST
OPEN ANIMAL VILLAGE, AS THE PREMIER OR AS
THE MEMBER FOR NORWOOD, BECAUSE THE ANIMAL
WELFARE LEAGUE AND NORWOOD ARE OLD FRIENDS.

..2.

THE CENTRE ON MAGILL ROAD PROVIDED A VALUABLE
SERVICE TO THE WHOLE CITY AREA FOR MORE THAN
10 YEARS AND IT HAS ONLY BEEN REPLACED BECAUSE
IT COULD NOT PHYSICALLY GROW AS QUICKLY AS
THE DEMAND FOR THE LEAGUE'S SERVICES GREW.

SO I'M VERY HAPPY TO SEE THIS NEW CENTRE HERE
AT WINGFIELD, BECAUSE IT WILL ALLOW THE LEAGUE
TO FURTHER EXPAND ITS FACILITIES BUT STILL
STAY IN ONE, MODERN COMPLEX.

THE NEED FOR THE SERVICES GIVEN BY THE LEAGUE IS ALL TOO EVIDENT : IN THE PAST 6 YEARS MORE THAN 85,000 STRAY ANIMALS HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO THE LEAGUE'S SHELTERS, QUITE APART FROM THE MANY THOUSANDS MORE WHICH HAVE BEEN CARED FOR BY YOUR MEMBERS IN THEIR OWN HOMES.

THOSE FIGURES, OF COURSE ARE ONLY FOR YOUR ORGANISATION - OTHER VOLUNTARY GROUPS DEAL WITH MANY MORE ANIMALS NEEDING CARE.

IT IS A RATHER SAD COMMENT ON PEOPLE'S SELFISHNESS THAT SO MANY ANIMALS ARE NEGLECTED BY THEIR OWNERS.

THE RESULT OF THAT NEGLECT BECOMES A PROBLEM WHICH GROUPS LIKE YOURS WORK TO OVERCOME. UNFORTUNATELY, THERE SEEMS LITTLE PROSPECT OF THE SITUATION IMPROVING. AS CITIES GROW AND PEOPLE HAVE INCREASING LEISURE TIME, THE DEMAND FOR PETS WILL INCREASE AND THERE WILL BE MORE CASES OF NEGLECT AND ILL TREATMENT.

THE GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE WHOLE RANGE OF ANIMAL WELFARE, SERVICES, AND THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THESE SERVICES WILL BE PLACED UNDER GREATER STRAIN IN THE FUTURE.

WE HAVE SET UP AN ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE TO LOOK AT THE PROBLEM, IN PARTICULAR THE COST OF PET CARE TO LOW INCOME FAMILIES. THE HIGH COST OF GIVING ANIMALS PROPER CURATIVE AND PREVENTATIVE TREATMENT OFTEN FORCES LOWER INCOME GROUPS TO ABANDON PETS WHICH THEN BECOME A NUISANCE, OR, AS IN THE CASE OF CATS DUMPED IN THE BUSH, AN ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT. THE ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE PROVIDES MUCH NEEDED HELP TO LOWER-INCOME GROUPS, AND I HOPE THE COMMITTEE AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO DRAW ON YOUR EXPERIENCE AND SUGGESTIONS.

ANOTHER QUESTION WHICH THE COMMITTEE WILL EXAMINE IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VOLUNTARY GROUPS SUCH AS THE LEAGUE AND THE STATE GOVERNMENT.

THE ORGANISATIONS WORKING IN THE ANIMAL WELFARE AREA HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF EXPERIENCE AND INSIGHT INTO THE PROBLEM OF PET CARE, AND THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO HELP WHERE POSSIBLE.

I FEEL THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND GROUPS SUCH AS THE LEAGUE SHOULD BE LOOKING MORE CLOSELY AT EDUCATING PEOPLE TO LOOK AFTER THEIR PETS PROPERLY AND ALSO EDUCATING THEM ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF LOOKING AFTER AN ANIMAL.

WITHOUT SUCH A PROGRAMME, THE DEMANDS ON ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE LEAGUE WILL INCREASE AT A FAR GREATER RATE THAN THE CAPACITY OF EITHER VOLUNTARY GROUPS OR THE GOVERNMENT TO HANDLE.

THESE NEW PREMISES POINT TO THE INCREASING CALLS MADE ON THE LEAGUE, AND ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT I WANT TO CONGRATULATE ALL YOUR MEMBERS ON SUCH A MARVELLOUS ACHIEVEMENT.

THERE IS ONE MEMBER TO WHOM SPECIAL TRIBUTE MUST BE PAID. MRS. JOY RICHARDSON FOUNDED YOUR ORGANISATION IN 1964 AND HAS WORKED CONSISTENTLY FOR THE LEAGUE SINCE THEN. WITH HER DEDICATED WORK AND THE SUPPORT OF ALL THE OTHER MEMBERS, THE LEAGUE HAS LOOKED AFTER AN INCREASING NUMBER OF ANIMALS EACH YEAR AND BUILT THIS COMPLEX AT A COST OF \$250,000.

I'M ALSO VERY PLEASED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ABLE TO HELP FINANCIALLY AND THAT WE ARE WORKING TOGETHER ON THE WHOLE QUESTION OF ANIMAL WELFARE SERVICES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA. I AM SURE THAT CO-OPERATION WILL PROVIDE AN EVEN BETTER STANDARD OF CARE FOR OUR ANIMALS IN THE FUTURE.

I HAVE GREAT PLEASURE IN DECLARING THE ANIMAL VILLAGE OPEN.

SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR. DON DUNSTAN, AT 24
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